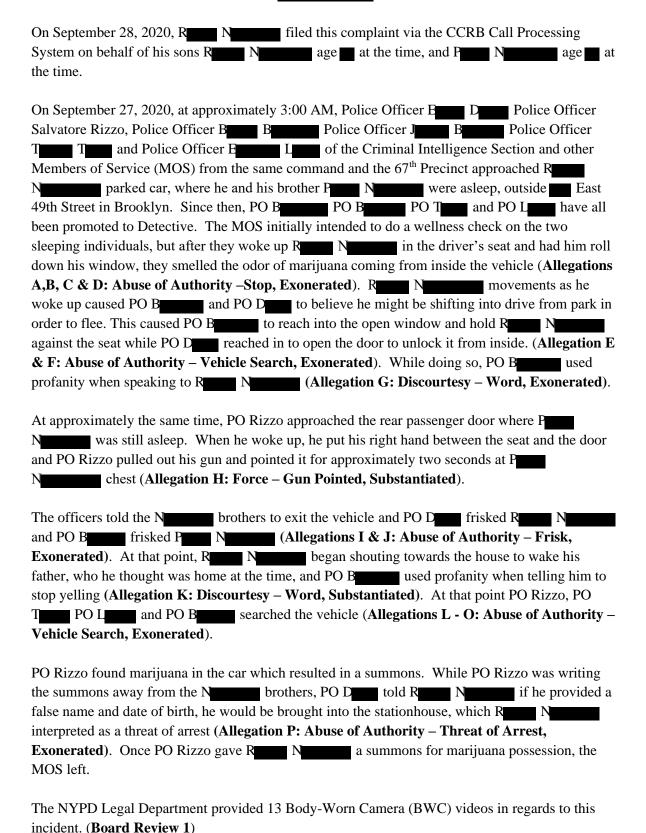
## CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:		CCRB Case #:	V	Force	V	Discourt.		U.S.
Nicholas Venduras		Squad #	<b>#</b> 7	202006527	V	Abuse		O.L.		Injury
Incident Date(s)		18 Mo.	SOL	EO SOL	Lo	cation of	Incide	ent:	Pre	cinct:
Sunday 09/27/2020 3:08 AM		03-27-2	2022	05-04-2022		Eas	t 49th	Street		67
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Rep	ported At:	How CV Reported	1:	Date/Tim	e Rece	eived at CCl	RB	
Mon, 09/28/2020 11:49 AM		CCRB		Call Processing System		Mon, 09/2	28/202	20 11:49 AM	М	
Complainant/Victim	Type		Home Add	lress						
1. R N	Comp/W	itness								
2. R N	Victim									
3. P N	Victim									
Witness(es)			Home Add	lress						
1. A H										
Subject Officer(s)	Shield		TaxID	Command						
1. POM E										
2. POM Salvatore Rizzo	28468		955390	INT CIS						
3. POM E										
4. POM J										
5. POM B										
6. POM T										
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	0	Tax No	Cmd Name						
1. POM D Yusim										
2. POF J										
3. POM F										
4. POM V										
5. POM E										
6. SGT D										
7. LT J G 8. POM A G										
	Allegation					T	4			
Officer(s)	Allegation						_	ator Recon	nme	naauon
A . POM B		Abuse of Authority R		ficer E D sto	ppec	1 A.	Exor	nerated		
B . POM Salvatore Rizzo			ity: Police Of	ficer Salvatore Rizzo	stopį	ped B.	Exon	erated		
C . POM E	Abuse of P	Authori	ity: Police Of	ficer B D sto	ppec	d C.	Exon	erated		
D . POM Salvatore Rizzo	Abuse of P	Authori	ity: Police Of	ficer Salvatore Rizzo	stopp	ped D.	Exor	nerated		
E. POM B		the vehi	ity: Police Of cle in which		s an	Ε.	Exon	erated		

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
F. POM E	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer B D searched the vehicle in which R N was an occupant.	F. Exonerated
G . POM B	Discourtesy: Police Officer B B spoke discourteously to R N	G . Exonerated
H . POM Salvatore Rizzo	Force: Police Officer Salvatore Rizzo pointed his gun at P N	H . Substantiated
I . POM E	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer B D frisked	I . Exonerated
J. POM J	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer J B frisked	J. Exonerated
K . POM B	Discourtesy: Police Officer B B spoke discourteously to R N	K . Substantiated
L . POM Salvatore Rizzo	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Salvatore Rizzo searched the vehicle in which R was an occupant.	L . Exonerated
M . POM T	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer T was searched the vehicle in which R N was an occupant.	M . Exonerated
N . POM B	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer E L searched the vehicle in which R N was an occupant.	N . Exonerated
O . POM J	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer J B searched the vehicle in which R N was an occupant.	O . Exonerated
P. POM E	Abuse of Authority: Police Officer B D threatened to arrest R N	P. Exonerated

## **Case Summary**



CCRB Case # 202006527

## **Findings and Recommendations**

Allegation A: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer E
Allegation B: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Salvatore Rizzo stopped R
Allegation C: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer E
Allegation D: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Salvatore Rizzo stopped P
Allegation E: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer B
which R was an occupant.
Allegation F: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer E
was an occupant.
Allegation G: Discourtesy: Police Officer B spoke discourteously to R
Allegation H: Force: Police Officer Salvatore Rizzo pointed his gun at P
Allegation I: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer E D frisked R N
Allegation J: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer J B frisked P N
Allegation K: Discourtesy: Police Officer B spoke discourteously to R
Allegation L: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Salvatore Rizzo searched the vehicle in
which R was an occupant.
Allegation M: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer T searched the vehicle in which
New was an occupant.
Allegation N: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer E
which R was an occupant.
Allegation O: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer J searched the vehicle in
which R was an occupant.
Allegation P: Abuse of Authority: Police Officer E
At the time of the incident, R N are a rapper, recording artist and regular marijuana
smoker, told the CCRB he and P just returned home in his car. (Board Review 2)
They had spent the night at a recording studio with R grant N girlfriend smoking
marijuana but said they did not smoke any in his car afterwards. They dropped his girlfriend off at
home, with plans to drop P of and when she was ready to come out again, she
would call. It being so late, P
Remark backed into his family's driveway and inadvertently fell asleep himself while
waiting for his girlfriend to call.
PO Description said he was in a patrol caravan of about three or four vehicles when an unknown officer
in another vehicle announced over the radio the N brothers were passed out in a car in front
of their home. (Board Review 3) Wanting to make sure they were alright, as they might have
needed medical attention, they determined to check on them. He listed potential scenarios of
gunshot wounds, overdoses, or diabetic comas as reasons why they approached the vehicle. PO

checking on unconscious individuals to make sure they were not in danger is what good officers should do. (Board Review 5) PO Described BWC shows him knocking on the closed driver's door window at timestamp 0:49. (**Board Review 6**) When Research Normal rolled down his window, PO Described and he smelled the unique odor of marijuana and saw what he identified as crumbs of it on the floor. (Board **Review 3**) At that point PO D said this interaction was no longer a wellness check, but a stop. PO B said he smelled marijuana once the window was down. (Board Review 5) PO Rizzo's BWC shows he and PO B approaching the vehicle's passenger side and he knocks on the windshield at timestamp 0:45. (Board Review7) He then then knocks on the back seat window where PO B is shining a light on the sleeping P N PO Rizzo said he saw marijuana crumbs and ashes in the center console and on the floor when he looked through the window. (Board Review 4) said a flashlight in his eyes and the sound of knocking woke him up. (**Board Review 2**) He rolled down his window to find out what was happening, and PO D asked if he was alright and said he was just checking on him. Not knowing what gear his car was in, or if his foot was on the brake, and being disoriented, he reached for the gear shifter to ensure it was in park. PO Design said he was worried he would try to drive off and PO Beauty added one of his partners was disabled from being dragged by a fleeing vehicle which is why he reached inside to prevent Research Name of the Front Changing gears. (Board Review 3 & Board Review 5) PO Description BWC shows PO Beautiful reaching inside the vehicle at timestamp 1:09, taking a shirt and telling him to not move. (**Board Review 6**) Both officers then repeatedly instruct him to not move and get out of the car. Remain appears very confused and indicates he's opening the door. At timestamp 1:16, PO Beautiful tells him he is, "Not opening shit," while PO Decement reaches in and opens the door from the inside himself. PO But tells R N to turn the car off and get out. PO B said he swore because it appeared to him that R was N was making no attempt to open the door like he said he was. (Board Review 5) Just before fully exiting the vehicle, R N shakes his younger brother awake by reaching into the back seat at timestamp 1:36 of PO D BWC. (Board Review 6) PO Rizzo's BWC captured what happened at the rear passenger seat at almost the same time. When he and PO B knock on the window, P N remains asleep at timestamp 1:02, with his left hand in his front jeans pocket and his right hand on his lap. (Board Review 7) In statements to the CCRB, both N brothers and their mother, A said P is a very heavy sleeper which is why he took longer to wake up. (**Board Review 2**, Board Review 8, & Board Review 9) At timestamp 1:34 of PO Rizzo's BWC, Part N jerks awake and is disoriented. (Board Review 7) He sits up and looks around while PO B tells him to stop moving. At timestamp 1:36, PO Rizzo points his gun at P

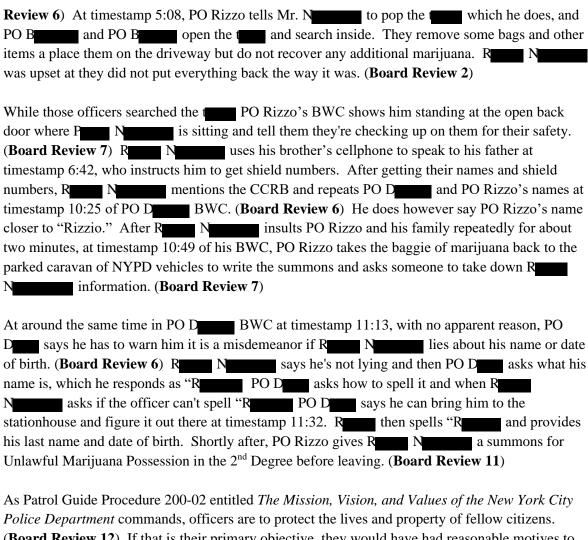
Rizzo echoed the sentiments as well in his statement. (Board Review 4) PO B said

hand!" PO Rizzo stated while P N did not appear to be awake, he considered the possibility the teenager was only feigning sleep and was perhaps lying in wait to ambush the officers. (Board **Review 4**) PO Rizzo said could not see P hands hands fully as one was in his pants. When he did appear to wake up, PO Rizzo said he looked startled and put his hands down between the seat and the door. At the same time, he heard other officers shouting that he was moving, and PO Rizzo thought P may have been reaching for a knife or a gun so he unholstered his firearm and pointed it at him. He justified this by describing the neighborhood as dangerous – known for frequent gun and gang violence – and he has responded to that street, but not necessarily that block, before for reports of shots fired. From the beginning of the year to when PO Rizzo made his statement, he said the East Flatbush area had 22 incidents of gun violence. Just prior to his interview, not only was someone shot in that precinct, but he also recovered another gun himself. He also said one of his responsibilities is to return home safely at the end of his tour. He said he chose to point his firearm rather than other less lethal equipment like his conducted electrical weapon (CEW) because the window was blocking P rendered such methods ineffective. He also said he was trained to use a higher level of force than what a potentially violent civilian would use. Once PO Rizzo's firearm is holstered, PO Books opens Posts Name and door at timestamp 1:42 and tells him to step out. (Board Review 10) Upon exiting the vehicle, both brothers were BWC shows him frisking P and N at timestamp 2:07 and PO Description shows him frisking R at timestamp 1:41 before being brought to the rear of the vehicle. (Board Review 6 & Board Review 10). Neither officer puts their hands inside any pockets or clothes. N he did his best to make as much noise as possible by yelling and knocking on his home's window in order to wake up his parents and anyone else in the neighborhood because he feared for his safety. (Board Review 2) At the time, he did not know his father was not home. At timestamp 2:31 of PO D BWC, PO B warns him once to stop screaming and when he bangs in the window, PO Beautiful tells him to "stop fucking moving." (Board Review 6) PO Beautiful said the word "fucking" just came out in the moment. (Board **Review 5**) R tells him he wants people to see this. He also says he doesn't care that the officers detect marijuana in his car. (**Board Review 6**) At that point PO Rizzo, PO L and and PO T searched the vehicle. PO Rizzo searched the front and back passenger area and recovered a plastic baggie of marijuana in the back door handle and evidence of marijuana packaging in the glove compartment such as other unused baggies with the word "cannabis" printed on them. (Board Review 7) In his statement, R

through the window for about two seconds while saying, "Don't reach!" and "Let me see your

Once the officers searching the vehicle are finished, PO Description tells the Newtonian brothers to get back in the car at timestamp 4:56 of his BWC and they return to their original seats. (Board

PO Rizzo found about \$5.00 worth of marijuana. (**Board Review 2**)



As Patrol Guide Procedure 200-02 entitled *The Mission, Vision, and Values of the New York City Police Department* commands, officers are to protect the lives and property of fellow citizens.

(Board Review 12) If that is their primary objective, they would have had reasonable motives to approach a vehicle with two apparently unconscious individuals inside. As the three MOS interviewed stated, they wanted to make sure they were not injured or in need of some other assistance. However, once they neared the vehicle, they detected marijuana, which was still illegal at the time in New York State. Remain admitted to having smoked marijuana earlier that night and even if the New York of the specific odor of marijuana. The marijuana found inside the vehicle would have also likely emanated an odor.

According to Patrol Guide Procedure 212-11, a stop, which would establish to a reasonable person they were not free to leave, "may be conducted only when a police officer has an individualized reasonable suspicion that the person stopped has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a felony or Penal Law misdemeanor." (**Board Review 13**) As per PG 200-02, the officers were obligated to check on the sleeping National brothers as part of their mission to protect the lives of New Yorkers, but once they smelled the odor of marijuana, they were justified in stopping them since it was still illegal to possess. It is therefore recommended that **Allegations A, B, C,** and **D** be **exonerated**.

Furthermore, *People v McLaren*, *131 A.D.3d 548*, determined that probable cause exists for the warrantless search of the defendant's vehicle and its occupants due to the "odor of marihuana emanating from a vehicle, when detected by an officer qualified by training and experience to recognize it," (*People v Cuffie*, *109 AD3d 1200*, *1201*, *972 NYS2d 383 [2013]* [internal quotation marks omitted]; *People v Robinson*, *103 AD3d 421*, *959 NYS2d 188 [2013]*; *People v Smith*, *66 AD3d 514*, *887 NYS2d 562 [2009]*). (**Board Review 14**) Since PO December PO Beautiful and PO Rizzo had a reasonable belief marijuana, which was still illegal at the time, was inside the vehicle, based on what they smelled and saw, *People v McLaren* would have given officers a legitimate reason to search the vehicle and frisk the occupants. It is therefore recommended **Allegations E, F, I, J, L, M, N,** and **O** be **exonerated**.

Patrol Guide Procedure 221-01 also tells MOS to protect human life and continues with, "drawing a firearm prematurely or unnecessarily limits a uniformed member's options in controlling a situation and may result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm. The decision to display or draw a firearm should be based on an articulatable belief that the potential for serious physical injury is present." (**Board Review 15**) Deadly force can only be used "to protect MOS and/or the public from imminent serious physical injury or death."

Process Name actions did not indicate he posed a serious and imminent physical threat to PO Rizzo or his fellow officers. Based on PO Rizzo's BWC, Process Simply appears to be a confused teenager being startled awake by a caravan's worth of police officers. While his hand did disappear from view momentarily, PO Rizzo's reasons for pointing his gun at Process Name of the level of an imminent threat and the infamous reputation of the neighborhood is irrelevant to what took place in the Name of driveway. His use of potential deadly force was unjustifiable, and it is therefore recommended that **Allegation H** be **substantiated**.

In DCT Case #79627/04 Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Trial, R W. Vinal, ruled, "When a police officer uses an otherwise impolite word during a stressful street encounter where that officer is attempting to maintain control of the situation, the police officer's verbal slip does not rise to the level of actionable misconduct." (Board Review 16) When PO B said R N wasn't "opening shit," the situation was at a level of stress where such language would arguably be acceptable. Both he and PO D expressed a reasonable fear of R N being able to quickly attempt to flee and PO B was trying to control the situation. It is therefore recommended that Allegation G be exonerated.

While it may have been reasonable for him to use profanity at that point, PO Beautiful statement of "Stop fucking moving" was not said during an especially stressful portion of the encounter.

Remain Name was not resisting the officers, nor was he making himself a threat and he had already been frisked. He may have repeatedly called out, but the situation was under control and did not appear to rise to the level of stress needed to justify PO Beautiful to swear at him. It is therefore recommended that **Allegation K** be **substantiated**.

Patrol Guide Procedure 209-03 instructs officers on issuing summonses. (**Board Review 17**) When doing so, officers are required to establish the violator's identity and mailing address via valid identification documents such as, but not limited to, a driver's license, a passport, naturalization papers, etc. If someone does not have a valid form of ID, the Patrol Guide tells officers to "remove the violator to the command" to establish identification.

PO Description correctly warned Research Newson if he did not provide his proper name and date of birth that he could, as per the Patrol Guide, take him to the stationhouse to identify him there. This was not an idle threat, but a fact, and therefore not misconduct. Based on the above, it is recommended that **Allegation P** be **exonerated**.

## Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- PO E has been a member of service for nine years and has been the subject in nine other CCRB complaints and 10 other allegations, none of which were substantiated.
   PO D CCRB history does not reflect any apparent patterns pertinent to this investigation. (Board Review 18)
- PO Salvatore Rizzo has been a member of service for eight years and has been the subject in eight other CCRB complaints and 32 other allegations, none of which were substantiated (Board Review 19):
  - PO Rizzo's CCRB history reflects a pattern of Guns Pointed, Vehicle Stops,
     Vehicle Searches, and refusals to provide name pertinent to this investigation.
- Det. Beautiful has been a member of service for eight years and has been the subject in five other CCRB complaints and seven other allegations, none of which were substantiated (**Board Review 20**):
  - O Det. Beautiful CCRB history reflects a pattern of vehicle searches and discourteous words pertinent to this investigation.
- Det. James Bases has been a member of service for eight years and has been the subject in eight other CCRB complaints and 28 other allegations, none of which were substantiated (Board Review 21):
  - O Det. B CCRB history reflects a pattern of searches of people and vehicle searches pertinent to this investigation.
- Det. The has been a member of service for six years and has been the subject in 14 other CCRB complaints and 44 other allegations, four of which were substantiated (Board Review 22):
  - 201710160 involved allegations of Abuse Vehicle Search against Det. T
     The Board recommended Command Discipline B and the NYPD imposed
     Formalized Training.
  - 201805712 involved allegations of Force Physical, Discourtesy Action and Discourtesy – Word against Det. The Board recommended Command Discipline B and the NYPD imposed no penalty.
  - O Det. Temas CCRB history reflects a pattern of vehicle searches pertinent to this investigation.

Det. E has been a member of service for five years and has been the subject in six other CCRB complaints and 17 other allegations, none of which were substantiated (Board Review 23): o Det. Lace CCRB history reflects a pattern of vehicle searches pertinent to this investigation. This is the first CCRB complaint to which R has been a party. (Board Review 24) This is the first CCRB complaint to which R has been a party. (**Board** Review 25) This is the first CCRB complaint to which P has been a party. (**Board** Review 26) **Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories** None of the victims accepted mediation. On August 2, 2021, a Notice of Claim inquiry was sent to the NYC Office of the Comptroller. On August 9, 2021, the NYC Office of the Comptroller stated no notices of claim filed by or on behalf of R were located for this or P incident. (Board Review 27) According to the Office of Court Administration (OCA), R has no history of convictions in New York City. (Board Review 28) According to the Office of Court Administration (OCA), P has no history of convictions in New York City. (Board Review 29) Squad No.: 7 Investigator: Nicholas Venduras Inv. Nicholas Venduras October 5, 2021 Print Title & Name Signature Date Manager Vanessa Rosen October 5, 2021 Squad Leader: \_ Signature Print Title & Name Date

Print Title & Name

Signature

Reviewer:

Date